

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kanno (US 2001/0025691 ).

Claims 1-8 and 12-20 are allowed.

Claims 10-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

**Changes in the Claims:**

Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 9. No new matter has been added.

**Rejection under 35 USC §102(e) – claim 9**

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Kanno. This rejection is moot because claim 9 has been canceled.

**Objections to claims 10-11**

Claims 10 and 11 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 9. Claim 11 depends from claim 10.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 10 and 11 are now allowable.

**Conclusion**

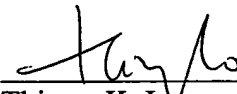
For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the amended claims are now in proper form, and that the amended claims all define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

**Request for allowance**

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

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